

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

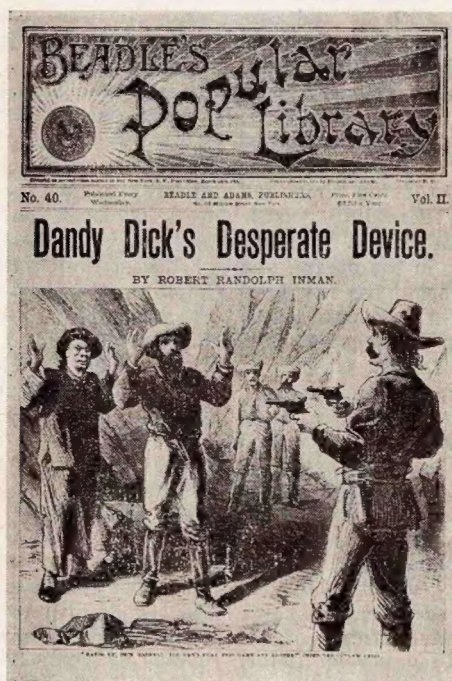
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The Pseudonyms of Gilbert Patten

By Gerald J. McIntosh



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 109

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The Pseudonyms of Gilbert Patten

By Gerald J. McIntosh

Since its inception back in 1931, the pages of our Round-Up have had much to say about the pseudonyms and pen names of the various authors who wrote dime novels, and these names are legion in number. Several write-ups have been sent in on this subject. Many of our members have submitted lists of these purported pseudonyms with a long array of such names. Most of them I should say have been proven, yet many have not and I very much doubt if we will have it completely known. Too much time has elapsed since these old "hacks" were here with us and correct information is mighty hard to secure and unreliable in many cases. Probably no amount of research could bring it all out.

In most of these lists the name of Gilbert Patten has a prominent place amidst the authors of his time and a preceding and succeeding parade of writers. Each list has a name or names not recorded in the others, and some of these names have not been proven; at least in my case there are some to whom I have been unable to trace any stories. Others, of course are proven and well known.

Patten seems to have been more or less a "veteran" at having had names other than his own applied to him by the time he really began writing in earnest; some of course being merely nicknames. He tells us of this in his autobiography, "Frank Merriwell's Father." In his boyhood at Corinna, Maine, he became known as "Rolling Thunder" because of his habit of reading dime novels. Later, when he became more or less aggressive in the encounters that nat-

urally came along between him and some of the tougher element among his chums or when matters came to a head and he was forced to display his "spunk" the name of "Bullbeef" was dubbed onto him. When he submitted his first two short stories to Beadle, "A BAD MAN" and "THE PRIDE OF SANDY FLAT" both of which were eventually published, he says they were furnished under the name of HARVAN W. GREGG. (It might be that this is where he got the idea of naming his first and only son HARVAN). He says that when he was publishing his newspaper, the "Owl" in Corinna he wrote a feature for it that appeared as having been written by one "Sam Plank" and that no one ever accused him of the crime. When Patten's sun had set he had acquired some twenty different names for his writings. Some as I have said have not been proven and maybe some are yet unbound.

A dozen or more of these names appear at the wind-up of Patten's autobiography, "Frank Merriwell's Father," furnished by David C. Adams of our Round-Up. Further articles by Adams, Stanley Pachon, Ralph Adimari and others have added several other names to this list. It shall be my purpose here to discuss the proven ones as such and also the possible inconsistency or the improbability that Patten produced stories under such names, though I well know that the old-timers are more qualified to do this and I shall give the names under which I, at least have traced no stories to Patten.

Patten's stories for Beadle in their Dime and Half Dime Libraries ap-

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peared under his own name, that of William G. Patten. Later several of them appeared in other Beadle publications, such as Popular and Pocket Libraries and Banner Weekly under the name of WILLIAM WEST WILDER and this was shortened a lot to "WYOMING WILL." After that his work appeared in various other periodicals. I don't know in what order this was done, but one of the earliest probably was GOLDEN HOURS and here is where there seems to be quite a lot of confusion in the listing of those names.

It has been said that he wrote only short stories for GOLDEN HOURS at the beginning, but graduated to longer ones and several appeared under his own name. What his short stories were I have no idea. Many of his longer ones there however were reprinted much later on in BRAVE & BOLD, BOUND TO WIN and other places. What name by which the short stories appeared under I don't know. The name of "BURT" is a well-mentioned one as having been used in more ways than one. On page 179 of his biography Patten says "Burt" was part of a pen name he once used for some short stories in Golden Hours. The name of STANTON L. BURT is given in one of David Adams' lists. Could this have been used for the Golden Hours short stories? Who knows. I have never seen any stories under this name. Patten also says on page 160 he sold work under the name of BURT R. BRADDOCK, so here the name "Burt" pops up again. He had only one story in Golden Hours under the name of BURT R. BRADDOCK that I know of, that of "HANDY HANS," mentioned by me in a previous article and I have no knowledge of its ever being reprinted. David Adams also mentions the name of "Stanton L. Ives," but Patten says this should have been "Stanton L. Burt." I know of no stories under these two names. I feel sure some member of the Brotherhood must have a set, or at least a partial set of Golden Hours. It would be nice if he took the time to browse thru the set and perhaps get some infor-

mation that would help us straighten out some of this.

Ralph Adimari informs us that GORDON BRADDOCK was used by Patten for OLD CAP COLLIER stories. A check through the entire list of stories in this Library fails to show this name. Stanley Pachon tells us the pen name of Patten for Old Cap Collier is still not known. Some one in an "ad" in the Round-Up once said GORDON "BRADFORD" was the author of the Rex Kingdon series, but I feel sure he meant GORDON BRADDOCK. This series was in cloth bound book form. Who knows if they were published elsewhere and under what name before the cloth edition appeared? MORGAN SCOTT was a pen name of Patten for the Boys of Oakdale series that were also cloth bound editions. Did they appear elsewhere?

JULIAN ST. DARE was the name Patten applied to some short stories in the very first numbers of TOP NOTCH, about Cliff Sterling. More tales of Cliff came out later and all were tied together in a cloth bound series called the Cliff Sterling series.

GORDON MacLAREN was used by Patten in writing one serial story in TOP NOTCH in the early years of the magazine and for some short stories in later S&S "pulp." Title of the story was "The Riddle And The Ring" and it was reprinted in one of the S&S "thick" Libraries.

HARRY DANGERFIELD he used for some tales of the West in "GOOD NEWS" which later were in the MEDICAL LIBRARY under his own name. He also used in Good News the names of EMERSON BELL and BARRY TALLYHO for the "Lad Electric" tales and these were much later published in BRAVE & BOLD, BOUND TO WIN, etc.

A final printing of one of Patten's tales, "THE ROUSTABOUT BOYS" appeared in MIGHT & MAIN No. 60. With the Author being given as by "ONE OF THE BOYS" which was used for nearly all tales in Might & Main.

HERBERT BELLWOOD was a name used for Patten in BRAVE AND

BOLD, BOUND TO WIN and other thick Libraries. These had appeared in Golden Hours and other publications under Patten's own name. In the reprinting, some of them undoubtedly shortened somewhat and in lots of cases bore another title, or at least an altered one.

The name of **JOHN L. DOUGLAS** applied to at least one story that Patten wrote. It was "**THE ROUSTABOUT BOYS**" in Golden Hours Nos. 391 to 400 by William G. Patten. It was republished several times, under other pen names, but **BRAVE AND BOLD** No. 366 has the same title, and it is the same theme story. But in **BRAVE AND BOLD** the author was **JOHN L. DOUGLAS**. There were other titles in **BRAVE AND BOLD** by this Douglas, but none of them coincided with any other Patten titles.

Now, here are some reputed pen names of Patten of which I have some doubt; certainly I haven't been able to verify them at all. Ralph Adimari tells us in a list of pseudonyms in Dime Novel Round-Up No. 324 that Patten used the names of **MARGARET MERRIWELL** and **WILLIAM GILBERT** for stories in the Waverly Magazine. I have read the entire list of stories in this Magazine and don't find either of these names there. I also don't find the names of **BARRY TALLYHO** and **GORDON BRADDOCK** in Old Cap Collier as he says, though they are listed above as having appeared in other publications.

Dave Adams in his pseudonyms of Patten gives us the names of **WYL PARTON** and **Lieut. R. A. SWIFT**. Never have I heard of a story where the name of Wyl Parton was the author. Though Patten states in his biography on page 160 that he did sell work under the name of **L. R. A. Swift**, this is another one that continues to elude me. Who can come up with something by the above two pen names of Patten?

BURT L. STANDISH! There is the Pseudonym of all Pseudonyms for you! Patten tells us in his autobiography, "Frank Merriwell's Father" how he formed and settled on this pen name. At that time he says he

was not aware of the name of Hal Standish, used by Frank Tousey in **Work and Win** for the stories of Fred Fearnot, a name which has often been confused with that of his own creation, "**Burt L. Standish**." He had always liked the story of Longfellow, "**The Courtship of Miles Standish**," and so as he had admired the name of Standish, he chose that name for his own. The name "**BURT**" he had previously used as part of a pen name for some short stories in Golden Hours. (This has been commented on above with the remark of course we do not know what these stories were). To those who have asked him what the "**L**" in the name stood for, he says he always replied, "For euphony!"

Under this name Patten wrote by far and away the greatest number of his tales. Take the Merriwell yarns; as we know they ran into the hundreds and hundreds alone. The name was used on and on for them even when he quit writing these stories, to the end of the Tip Top and New Tip Top Weeklies, and all through the later pulp stories; those written by that trio, William Wallace Cook, John H. Whitson and William Almond Wolff and possibly others. The number of yarns under this name in these and other magazines surely must have gone well into the three figure mark, though of course I doubt all of them were the product of Gilbert Patten.

A sort of "revolution" came on when Tip Top Weekly first came out. It had front cover in several colors and this succeeded the "black and white" of its predecessors, the dime novels and weekly story papers and the so-called "yellow-backs." Quite a novelty indeed, meant for greater sales and that was just what happened. Tip Top was a great success from the start.

The front covers of the first four Tip Tops contained quite an oddity I suppose all don't know about. The author was given as "**BURR**" instead of Burt L. Standish. With No. 5 the Burr was corrected to read Burt and remained thus thru No. 9. With No.

10 the by-line read "By The Author of Frank Merriwell." The same pattern was used on page 1, and thus it was for a long period. Eventually the name Burt L. Standish was restored to the front cover and first page, remaining so till the end of the saga, even for the writers who continued on the series after Patten quit.

As told above I have read of these various pen names of Patten all thru the existence of the Round-Up, but have never seen a grouping of them unless this could be called such, I have given all the names I have seen with verifications I have. I'm pretty sure some of the old-timers would have been better qualified than I for this job I have done. I invite others to let us know any additional names there may be and ask those who have already furnished names for this list that I have been unable to track down to come forward with the facts and with any friendly criticism they have to offer.

I stated above I had given a complete list of all pen names for Patten known to me; however, there two more exceptions. If a catalog of the NEW MEDAL LIBRARY can be consulted the reader can find just preceding and following No. 700 in the list the titles of ten books with the authorship accredited to FREDERICK GIBSON and FRANK H. MACDOUGAL. Purely by "chance" did I learn these were stories written by Patten. I have positively traced most of them to him but not all. I do not believe Patten produced tales under these names; I simply believe these names were simply ascribed as a "substitute" by S&S, possibly because they had used the name of Patten or his other pen names so frequently, and with new names and titles sort of "cover up" with the idea the readers would not catch on and maybe think they were getting a new story and by a new author. This is just a theory of mine. The story of how I have traced the books to Patten is rather a fascinating one and may be the subject of something else I shall present on this in some future copy of the Round-Up if time and space

in the magazine permits.

I make one concession here as to the names "Margaret Merriwell" and "William Gilbert" contributed by Ralph Adimari. I consulted the list of Waverly NOVELS in Prof. Johannsen's book on Beadle. I did not have access to a Waverly "MAGAZINE" which he names. Selah!

NOTE

Mrs. Alla T. Ford, 114 South Palmway, Lake Worth, Florida 33460, has launched upon a new publishing venture. She is now taking orders for her first miniature book being printed in Hong Kong, called, "THE JOYS OF COLLECTING CHILDREN'S BOOKS," 110 pages. It is a very interesting history of children's books with a small section devoted to Dime Novels. The edition is limited to 500. All are autographed, \$6.50. Dealers' price is \$5.00. Mrs. Ford hopes to publish a number of these miniature books during the next few years and is interested in disposing of most of her book collection. Anyone interested should write her at the above address.

SOME REAL BARGAINS

Jack Wright reprints in Pluck & Luck \$1.75; Frank Reade in Wide Awake Library \$1.75; Tip Top Lib. No. 6 to 52 in original colored covers \$3.50 to \$5.00; Comic Lib. \$1.50; NY Dime Library \$1.00; others. No brittle stuff, all in good condition with good covers.

Guinon

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Jack R. Schorr

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176. J. Randolph Cox, 514½ W. Third St., Northfield, Minn. 55057
177. Leo F. Moore, 16412 Gentry Lane, Huntington Beach, Calif. 92647 (BB)
178. Joseph P. Wadleck, 41 Kingsgate Road, Snyder (Buffalo), N. Y. 14226
179. L. Harding, 172 Concord St., Portland, Me. 04103
180. A. E. Vogt, 523 N. Orange Ave., Monterey Park, Calif. 91754
181. James D. Thueson, Callimachus Publishing Co., 4174 University Station, Minneapolis, Minn. 55414
182. Ernest P. Sanford, 9724 Admiralty Drive, Silver Spring, Md. 20910
183. L. T. O'Desky, 2915 Lagrange St., Toledo, Ohio 43608
184. Richard J. Hoffman, 1868 Linwood Ave., Niagara Falls, N. Y. 14305
185. Howard L. Parkinson, 421 South Monroe St., Hartford City, Ind. 47348
186. John Edeler, 4002 New York Ave., Union City, N. J. 07087
187. Joseph L. Kapica, 60 Hawthorne St., New Britain, Conn. 06053
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190. Dr. David J. Thompson, 7205 Langley Canyon Rd., Salinas, Calif. 93901
191. R. B. Hudson, P. O. Box 378, Dallas, Ga. 30132
192. Julius R. Chenu, 16 Farragut Rd., Merrick, L. I., N. Y. 11566 (BB)
193. Detroit Public Library, Rare Books, Per. 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48202
194. William H. Petrecca, 2026 Delancey St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
195. Howard Funk, 5936 North Kostner Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60646
196. Marcus Cook Connolly, 25 Central Park West, New York, N. Y. 10023

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279. William C. Kennedy, 119 60th St., West New York, N. J. 07093
280. Les Beitz, 2407 Audubon Place, Austin, Texas 78741

Our net increase in membership during 1968 was 11. Three members died: Daniel A. Driscoll, J. Leonard Jennewein, and Upton Sinclair. Eighteen dropped membership for lack of interest or other reasons: Frank Merriwell Enterprises, Mortor S. Enslin, Dr. Francis J. Scully, John E. Murray, P. B. Marchenkoff, Peter Van Note, Jack W. Row, Louis Mitchell, Allan P. Kirby, Dr. V. L. Jones, Lloyd W. Currey, Mike Barrier, Mark V. Dievendorf, Joseph Kraus, Charles Duprez, Jr., Paul Birchard, Joseph Bienhorn and Floyd E. Stewart. 32 new members were enrolled beginning with No. 249 above.

Please mention this publication when answering ads. Thanks!

NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings

Adrian W. Jones, 1406 So. Maple St., Urbana, Ill., 61801, has been on a vacation over in Europe, Egypt and Israel, but has never been up here in the northeastern part of the United States. I think it would be nice to have him come here some time.

Roy B. Van Devier, 173 Paris Ave., Akron, Ohio 44301, will pay \$3.50 for a nice copy of Model Library No. 158, "With Lee in Virginia." He wants other nice copies if he can get them.

George Sahr, 7001 31st Ave., Kenosha, Wis. 53140 writes that he had his Golden Wedding Anniversary a year ago, and had over 100 guests. George says he landed a nice copy of Pluck & Luck #507 "The Doomed City." Says he has wanted it a long time, but finally had a chance to get it, and he did. Sure makes it interesting when we run onto something we've been after for a long time.

Herbert Kenney says he has been a dime novel reader for over 60 years and is still going strong, and Holger O. Jacobsen has also been at it a long time, who else? Bert retired after spending 50 years over a moving picture projectionist. I've read a pile of them, myself, but don't have the time to read many of them now, but do when I can.

Mary R. Estery wrote under the pen names of Clara Persey and Hope Holly.

Edward G. Ingraham, 402 Brentwood Rd., Havertown, Pa. 19083, likes the Jesse Stuart books, and wants "Men of the Mountains," by the same author, if he can get it.

A letter mailed to me on Nov. 23rd 1937, was the first letter I ever received from Eli A. Messier, P. O. Box 112, Woonsocket, R. I. That's the first time I ever heard from him, and soon after, I met him. He was living at another address at the time.

Ralph F. Adimari sent in a whiskey ad that used H. Alger in it as follows: Facing the World, or the Haps and Mishaps of a Plucky Canadian.

For us to come here three years ago, it took more than a trip across the Border, it took courage. (After all, think of all the obstacles our little Horatio Alger Canadian faced. Think of all the whiskies that were before us) and so on.

Dr. David J. Thompson, 214 Rodeo Ave., Salinas, Calif. 93901, says the set of Roundups I sent him has now been thoroughly read and digested. He was more than pleased with them.

Holger O. Jacobsen, 1409 Fairview Ave., So. Milwaukee, Wisc. 52172, wrote me after a long time—he is a great lover of the Diamond Dick Jr. Weekly. He wrote a little story in a contest, for which he received a prize of 20 Medal Libraries, which he still has. He says as you know, the original of these stories were published in the Nugget Library, also Diamond Dick Library, New York Weekly, and I'm not sure if there were one or two of them in the Log Cabin Library, but maybe not, as I just looked over my list of back numbers, and I don't seem to see a one, so guess I must of been dreaming. (Ye editor of this column would like to get the titles of Log Cabin Library Nos. 399 and 400, anyone have them they can spare the titles from?) Holger also says he well remembers when the colored weekly came in and the black and whites became a drug on the market, such as stacks of Frank Reade, Comic, Young Sleuth, Old Sleuth, etc. were neatly piled on tables, of which you could no doubt buy the whole bunch for five dollars, and when the Tip Top blue and red reprints came out, every once in a while an original was with them, which Holger was careful to buy. Why they used that horrible red color is more than Holger can figure out.

Holger wants to know the real authors of Yankee Doodle and Young Glory. Holger and George Sahr get together quite often, and talk over the old dime and nickel novels, and their authors.

The U. S. Mails seem to be getting terrible now, seems so now you have to insure every package, if you want it to get to its destination, because

if you don't insure it, it's a 100 to 1 chance it gets there. The more money they get, the less careful they are—they don't care how they handle your packages so it seems, then it gets lost. The old days I never lost a package, but lately, I've lost two within a short time of each other. I don't understand it, the more postage you pay, the less service you get.

Julius R. Chenu, 16 Farragut Rd., Merrick, L. I., N. Y. 11566, I see is Chief Mummy Inspector of "The Tutter Bugle," that came out Dec. 1st, 1967, Vol. 1, No. 1—4 pages, size 9x12 inches. Seems it's a magazine, pub. by Robert L. Johnson, Editor in Grief, The Tutter Bugle, quarterly, P.O. Box 1732, Bisbee, Arizona 85603. A 4 column magazine on Leo Edwards and all his writings. Julius R. Chenu is a H. H. Bro. Printed in blue ink, on white paper. Sure is very interesting. I'll see.

Carl Linville says as long as Frank Schott has Paul Jones Weekly No. 20, that his set and mine are not complete. He needs #19 and 20, and I need No. 20 to complete mine, and Peter Scollo needs 19 and 20 to complete his set. Too bad, there are some extra copies of these around some where. I don't know of any other members having #19 or 20 in their collections. Carl says Mr. Johnson that used to live up in Michigan had a set to 18. So who has, or does anyone have Nos. 19 and 20?

The Milwaukee Journal for Sunday Oct. 8th, 1967, had a center spread of "Yesterday's Heroes" sent to me by H. O. Jacobsen, full size illustrations of Tip Top Weekly #1 and 228, also a New Nick Carter Weekly #544. They are in color, and show up very nicely. Guess the article was from the Charles Bragin collection of old novels.

The Yankee for Oct. 1961 had a very interesting article on "The Fortune in Your Attic," by Geo. French. Has a picture of him sitting on the attic floor in front of a window, with a suitcase full of Nugget, Nick Carters, Beadles Dimes and what not, while he is holding a Nugget in his

hand, the title of which is No Slouch. He is looking at the illustration on the front cover.

George Sahr has been buying reprints of Harpers Weeklys 1860 to 1865, and likes them very much — some day these will be collectors items. George also says he believes the Fred Lee collection has all been sold, that didn't take too long.

Clarence W. Robinson writes me that he got hold of Golden Days for July 21st, 1900 and he found a story in it by John Coryell. Title of the story is "Such a Good Joke." Clarence says what surprises him is Mr. Coryell always wrote detective stories—and now he finds him writing other kinds of stories. "Such a Good Joke" is about small boys and their tomfoolery.

Clarence W. Robinson, 204 N. Cedar Ave., Lancaster, Ohio 43130, loves to sit down after a good days work, and read a good Nick Carter story, he says it kind of refreshes him in every way, shape and form. He says Nick Carter, the pseudonym under which Frederick Van Rensselsler Dey (1861-1922) produced his popular dime novels. The character of Nick Carter was reputedly invented by John R. Coryell (1848-1924) American Writer of Popular Fiction and turned over by him to Dey and to Thomas Chalmers Harbaugh (1849-1924). The first Nick Carter novel appeared in 1890 with the title "Nick Carter, Detective," by a celebrated author. The series was continued as "The Nick Carter Weekly," by Nick Carter. It is said that Dey wrote no less than 1076 stories, or about forty-million words in the person of the Adventurous Nick. Together with Harbaugh he is also said to have written some of the novels appearing under the pseudonym of Bertha M. Clay. (This was copied from the book of Famous Authors of the Past and Present, so thought this item might be of interest to all our readers of Nick Carter.) (George C. Jenks also wrote under the Nick Carter pseudonym too.)

J. Randolph Cox, 514½ West 3rd St., Northfield, Minn. 55057, writes

that he has been so busy with other tasks that he has had little time to tend to his growing Nick Carter collection. He hopes to spend some time reading many (which he lacks) in the Hess collection at the University of Minnesota, which he has set aside for a week of his vacation. He says his friends think he is crazy—That's no vacation, they cry. Little do they know . . . J. R. C. prizes the Dime Novel Roundups, Happy Hours Mags, old novel cover pictures and Street & Smith catalogues that I sent to him.

Irene Gurman, 23498 Parklawn, Oak Park, Mich. 48237, got hold of an interesting back cover, pub. by J. S. Ogilve & Co., and she found lots of odds and ends in it. The Factory Girl, a Romantic Novel founded on the play of the same name, by Chas. E. Blaney, pub. in Playbook Series #6, also on the back cover is a listing of #68 Custer's Last Fight, and no other is given, is this the last number, 1 to 68? (Guess not, as I have titles over #100—editor.) No. 6 was copyrighted 1904 and #68 must of been some time after 1905.

Away back in the early 30's, H. L. (Buck) Wilson, 325 Cummings St., Uvalde, Texas, 78801, was reading a Red Book Mag, when he came across an article of mine (Ralph Cummings) and my Dime Novel Collection. He used to read old novels when he lived in a little town in eastern Ohio, 16 miles from the Ohio River, and West Virginia line, that is where he read his first novel. Ten years later he

came across my article, and decided to collect these old timers. He says it brought back old memories, and he has been with the H. H. Bro. ever since.

Another fine article appeared in a Portland, Oregon, newspaper. No illustrations, no date or anything, it was clipped, and sent to me. I believe it could be another one of Charles Bragin's articles, this one is on "The Passing of the Dime Novel," and tells about a Brooklyn collector and his booklet he published some years back on "Dime Novels," 1860-1928.

Robert S. Bickford, Sr., 197 West Main St., Newport, Vt., 05855. Wants New York Detective Library #44. He will buy or borrow it, as 40 years ago he read part of it, and never had the chance to finish the story—who can help him out?

J. P. Guinon, P. O. Box 214, Little Rock, Ark., 72203, has some fine novels for sale, what you would call mint, such as Tip Top and Work and Win. They look like they came from the printer yesterday, so he says. Says he has been to Houston, Texas, a number of times, but never visited with Lou Kohrt, but he intends to, some day, he'd love to meet him.

J. Edward Leithead is a wondering who the author of the Jeff Clayton stories in the "Arthur Westbrook Adventure Series," could be. If any one can help him, write him: 5109 Cedar Ave., Phila., Pa. 19143.

American Farm and Home Almanac for 1968 had several pages in it on "The Great Train Robbery," all a-

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